WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing an assistance in a vehicle driving operation by displaying an image representing surrounding conditions around the vehicle on a display unit, the method comprising:

a first step of allowing a user to specify, on the image on the display unit, an end position which is a position of the vehicle at an end of a predetermined driving operation; and

a second step of obtaining, for the end position, a start position which is a position of the vehicle at a start of the predetermined driving operation according to a prescribed movement pattern representing a movement of the vehicle in the predetermined driving operation.

2. The driving operation assisting method of claim 1, further comprising a step of displaying the start position, the end position and the prescribed movement pattern while being superimposed on the image on the display unit.

3. The driving operation assisting method of claim 1, wherein in the first step, the end position specified by the user is taken as an input when the vehicle is in a vicinity of the end position.

4. The driving operation assisting method of claim 1, further comprising a step of performing, in a full-automatic or semi-automatic manner, at least one of an operation of driving the vehicle from a current position of the vehicle to

40

the start position and an operation of driving the vehicle from the start position to the end position according to the prescribed movement pattern.

5. A system for providing an assistance in a vehicle driving operation, the system comprising:

surrounding condition imaging means for producing an image representing surrounding conditions around the vehicle;

prescribed movement pattern storage means for storing a prescribed movement pattern representing a movement of the vehicle in a predetermined driving operation;

synthesized image production means for producing a synthesized image by superimposing the prescribed movement pattern on the surrounding condition image;

a display unit for displaying the synthesized image; and

pattern selection means for selecting the prescribed movement pattern based on a pointer input operation on a screen of the display unit.

6. A system for providing an assistance in a vehicle driving operation, the system comprising an image processing section for producing an image representing surrounding conditions around the vehicle, wherein the image processing section produces a synthesized image by superimposing, on the surrounding condition image, a circumscribed area trace of space where the vehicle passes as the vehicle is moved by a predetermined driving operation.

41

7. The driving operation assisting system of claim 6, wherein the image processing section produces the surrounding condition image by synthesizing images output from a plurality of cameras provided on the vehicle.

5